



# Catholicism 101

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Questions:





## Table Talk

What did you learn about sacraments last week?

How do non-Catholics view sacraments?

What other questions do you have about sacraments?





# Review:

- To be Catholic means to be in right relationship with God
  - God is actively pursuing a relationship with us.
- The Covenants
  - Priest, prophet, king, bridegroom
  - Culminates the Eucharistic Covenant
- Sacraments
  - What is a sacrament?
  - Matter and Form
  - Right Relationship





# Why Sacraments?

- Salvation comes through humanity.
  - Instrumentality
- The Lord wants to encounter us in a human way
- The way we communicate is through the body



# Are the Sacraments Magic?








# Sacraments: Right Intention

- The right intention of the minister
- “By the right intention for the administration of the Sacraments we mean that whoever administers a Sacrament must have the intention of doing what Christ intended when He instituted the Sacrament and what the Church intends when it administers the Sacrament.” (BC, L 13, Q585)





# Sacraments: Right Disposition

- The right disposition
  - “By the right dispositions for the reception of the Sacraments we mean the proper motives and the fulfillment of all the conditions required by God and the Church for the worthy reception of the Sacraments.” (BC, L 13, Q 606)
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# *Ex Opere Operato*

- “by the very fact of the action’s being performed”
- CCC 1128
- “It follows that ‘the sacrament is not wrought by the righteousness of either the celebrant or the recipient, but by the power of God.’ From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the Church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister. Nevertheless, the fruits of the sacraments also depend on the disposition of the one who receives them.”



# Three Movements of the Sacraments

- Sacramentum Tantum
  - Sacrament or sign alone
- Sacramentum et Res
  - Sign and reality/grace together
- Res Tantum
  - Reality/grace alone
- John 9:1-11
  - The clay and spittle and “Go and Wash” (Sign alone)
  - The sight is restored as the signs are administered (Sign and Grace)
  - His sight remains (The grace alone)



# Baptism

- Matter: Water
  - “We must be born of water and the Spirit.” (Jn 3:5)
  - Story of Nicodemus
- Form: “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” (Mt 28:19-20)
- Effects/Grace
  - We become children of God and members of the Church
  - We are given the spirit. We now have life within us.
  - Indelible mark
- Fruitfulness
  - Fidelity to the word.
  - Do we look and act like Christ







# Confirmation

- Matter: Sacred Chrism and Imposition of Hands
  - Rev. 22:4 (bearing the name on foreheads)
  - Acts 8:17
  - The priest lays hands on the animal that was sacrificed (Old Testament).
- Form: "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit."
- Mitre represents the fire of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles heads (Pentecost)
- Effect/Grace
  - From personal to communal sanctification (for others)
  - The Gifts of the Spirit. Courage and endurance in trials (St Peter, St Clare, BVM)
  - Indelible mark
- Fruitfulness
  - Endurance in trials and persecutions.



# Eucharist

- Mary Magdalene: “Clinging to Christ”
- Matter: bread and wine (Last supper)
- Form: words of institution during the mass
- Effect/grace
  - We are assimilated into the Body of Christ.
  - It supernaturally nourishes us.
  - We become active lovers of Christ. Strengthens our love of Christ.
  - Forgives venial sins.
- Fruitfulness
  - Charity
  - Our clinging to Christ





# Marriage

- It is natural. Sin destroys this.
  - Adam simply saw a woman. He did not see a body (Josef Pieper)
- Goods of Marriage
  - Chaste Fidelity (a true gift of self)
  - Children (One Flesh)
  - Indissoluble bond
- Matter: Man and Woman
- Form: Exchange of Vows
- Effects
  - God binds them together.
  - They point to his fidelity and love.
- Fruitfulness
  - Holiness of the spouses
  - Growth in charity and fidelity
- Dancing as an image

**MARRIAGE IS SIMPLE**

**YOUR WIFE DOES WHATEVER SHE WANTS  
AND YOU DO WHATEVER SHE WANTS**



# Penance/Confession

- Jn 20:20-22 – “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”
- Why?
  - Christ's Command
  - Exposes sin to the light. Sin is darkness.
  - We are saved as a community, a body.
  - We need not worry about forgiveness.





# Penance/Confession

- Matter: Sins and contrition (perfect/imperfect)
- Form: Word of absolution
- Effects
  - The forgiveness of sins
  - Reconciliation with God
- Fruitfulness of the Sacrament
  - Growth in self-knowledge and possession by grace
  - A true desire to turn from sin because love of God







# Anointing of the Sick

- The healing of the paralytic (Lk 5:17-26)
  - The main concern is the forgiveness of sins.
- James 5:14-15
- Matter: Oil of the Sick
- Form: Laying on of hands and words of the anointing.
- Effects
  - We are healed and prepared for eternal life.
  - Like a molten blade put through the water to solidify its form.
- Fruitfulness
  - Consecrating the suffering in union with Christ (laying on of hands)
  - Acceptance of the end of life
- A priest is like Moses. We lead them to the edge of the promised land. Christ meets you on the other side to welcome you in.



# Holy Orders

- Matter: the imposition of hands
- Form: prayer of consecration
- Effects
  - The priest is Christ's pen, which he never puts down.
  - He is given an indelible mark.
  - He has the power to consecrate the Eucharist and absolve sins.
- Fruitfulness
  - Intimate friendship with the Lord
  - He is like John the Baptist, a friend of the bridegroom.
  - Saint Joseph.





# Did Jesus intend to establish a Church?

Matthew 16:13-20







# Biblical Evidence of a Visible Church

- Bishops: "The saying is sure whoever aspires to the office of bishop desires a noble task. Now a bishop (*episcopoi*) must be above reproach, married only once, temperate..."
  - 1 Timothy 3:1-2
- Priests: "Let the elders (*presbuteroi*) who rule well be considered worth of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching"
  - 1 Timothy 5:17
- Deacons: "Deacons (*diakonoι*) likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money."
  - 1 Timothy 3:8





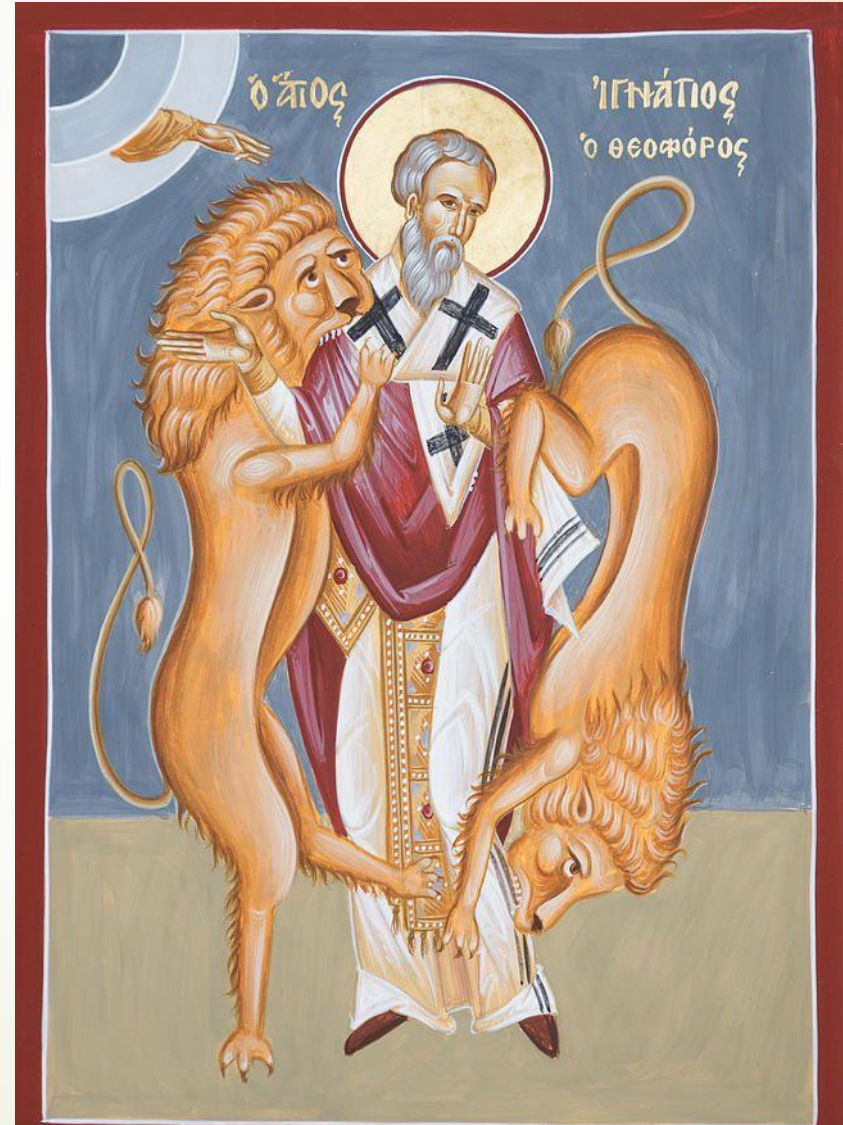
# Biblical Evidence of Apostolic Succession

- Acts 1:16-26 (Judas is replaced)
- 1 Corinthians 12:28-29 - “And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?”
- Ephesians 4:11-12 - “And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ”



# Ignatius of Antioch (died ~100AD)

- He was a disciple of
  - St. John the Apostle
  - St. Polycarp
- He was the bishop of Antioch







# Writings of St. Ignatius of Antioch

- “I salute in the blood of Jesus Christ, who is our eternal and enduring joy, especially if [men] are in unity with the bishop, the presbyters, and the deacons, who have been appointed according to the mind of Jesus Christ, whom He has established in security, after His own will, and by His Holy Spirit.”
  - (The Epistle of Ignatius to the Philadelphians, Greeting)





# Writings of St. Ignatius of Antioch


► “Wherefore, as children of light and truth, flee from division and wicked doctrines; but where the shepherd is, there follow as sheep. For there are many wolves that appear worthy of credit, who, by means of a pernicious pleasure, carry captive 2 Timothy 3:6 those that are running towards God; but in your unity they shall have no place. Keep yourselves from those evil plants which Jesus Christ does not tend, because they are not the planting of the Father. Not that I have found any division among you, but exceeding purity. For as many as are of God and of Jesus Christ are also with the bishop. And as many as shall, in the exercise of repentance, return into the unity of the Church, these, too, shall belong to God, that they may live according to Jesus Christ. Do not err, my brethren. If any man follows him that makes a schism in the Church, he shall not inherit the kingdom of God. If any one walks according to a strange opinion, he agrees not with the passion [of Christ].”

► (The Epistle of Ignatius to the Philadelphians, Greeting)





# Writings of St. Ignatius of Antioch



➤ “See that you all follow the bishop, even as Jesus Christ does the Father, and the presbytery as you would the apostles; and reverence the deacons, as being the institution of God. Let no man do anything connected with the Church without the bishop. Let that be deemed a proper Eucharist, which is [administered] either by the bishop, or by one to whom he has entrusted it. Wherever the bishop shall appear, there let the multitude [of the people] also be; even as, wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church. It is not lawful without the bishop either to baptize or to celebrate a love-feast; but whatsoever he shall approve of, that is also pleasing to God, so that everything that is done may be secure and valid.”

➤ The Epistle of Ignatius to the Smyrnaeans





# Online Resources / Sources Cited

- “A New Biblical Argument for Apostolic Succession”
  - Dave Armstrong
  - National Catholic Register
  - <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/biblical-argument-for-apostolic-succession>
- “What the Early Church Believed: Bishop, Priest, Deacon”
  - Catholic Answers
  - <https://www.catholic.com/tract/bishop-priest-and-deacon>



# Book Recommendations

- Bergsma, John. *Bible Basics for Catholic: A New Picture of Salvation History*.
- D'Ambrosio, Swafford. *What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith*. Ascension Press.
- Hahn, Scott. *Swear to God: The Promise and Power of the Sacraments*.
- Kauth, Matthew Rev., *The Sacraments: Discovering the Treasures of Divine Life*.
- Pitre, Brant. *Jesus the Bridegroom: The Greatest Love Story Ever Told*.
- Pitre, Brant. *Jesus and the Jewish Root of the Eucharist: Unlocking the Secrets of the Last Supper*.
- Pitre, Brant. *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary: Unveiling the Mother of the Messiah*.
- De Sales, Francis (Saint). *An Introduction to the Devout Life*.